

Barker, Henry D.
[American Consul, Bombay]

1913

AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE

Bombay 21st June 1913.

The Secretary
of the American Numismatic Society.

Dear Sir,

I enclose two small copper coins given me recently by Mr. J. H. Devlin, Financial Secretary of H.H. The Nizam's Government of Hyderabad, Deccan, India. These coins were amongst a number recently found while digging the foundations of a new building. The particular coins enclosed on being referred to the Hindu Asiatic Society were found to have been issued during the reign of Virapratapa Devaraya, King of Vijayanagar, Southern India (now part of the Madras Presidency), who was crowned king on Friday November the 6th 1406 A.D.

If you like, you may make a photograph of these coins for publication in the official journal of your Society. I would then like to have them sent to the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, with my compliments, sending at the same time a copy of this letter.

I may also call your attention to an interesting mint operated by the Native Government of Hyderabad, and in case you desire any information concerning some interesting coins which have been issued, I would refer you to Mr. P. B. Cheney, address, H.H. The Nizam's Mint, Hyderabad, Deccan, India who has a large personal collection of such coins. The present gold coins of this State are not a legal tender, but

are used chiefly for ceremonial purposes. Whenever His Highness the Nizam has a new child, or whenever any of the officials of his Government get married, or have children, it is customary for such officials to wait on His Highness, and present him with a gold coin, which varies in value according to the rank of the official making such a presentation. In the case of European officials the gold coin after being held in his Highness' hand for a moment, is returned, but in the case of his native subjects or officials, the coin is always kept, and is said to be turned over to servants in the royal household.

The hand minting of coins in Hyderabad ceased about 20 years ago. Hyderabad State coins are at a discount as compared with similar denominations of Indian currency. The State makes a large profit in minting them.

I would be glad if you would send Mr. Chenoy, a copy of one of the issues of your publication.

Yours truly,

American Consul on Special Service in
India.

C/o American Consul, Bombay.

*Henry D.
Baker*

July 31st, 1913.

Mr. Henry D. Parker,
c/o American Consul,
Bombay, India.

Dear Sir:-

Your interesting letter of June 21st together with the two coins were duly received, and the coins and copy of your letter have been forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution as requested.

Thanking you very much for the information that was contained in your letter, I am,

Very truly yours,

Director.